

CATHOLIC LAYMEN.

The Age Needs Workers, Not Drones or Braggadocios.

Upwards of 400 delegates from various points throughout the United States and Canada attended the international convention of the Catholic Order of Foresters in St. Paul, Minn. On Tuesday, 7th inst., before convening, they marched in a body to the Cathedral, where High Mass was celebrated, after which the Most Rev. Archbishop Ireland delivered an address on "The Duties of a Catholic Layman." The Archbishop said:

The mission of our Lord upon the earth was to elevate man by bringing God closer to him. Christ came to bring the supernatural in contact with the natural, and to set before man a new ideal—the supernatural. And this work has been and still will be continued by Holy Church, in Christ's name and with Christ's authority.

A false apprehension of Christ's will is that his soldiers and co-laborers are only the ministers consecrated by the Church.—The Catholic layman should say to himself, "Wherever good is to be done, there let me be; wherever I can give glory to God and His Church and wherever the weak are to be supported or souls to be saved, there is work for me." The account demanded from us at the last will be less what we have done for ourselves than what we have done for others.

Opportunities for Christian laymen to serve humanity are numerous. The Church rests upon foundations which no storm can shake and against which no sophistry can prevail. But the tangible argument that the world demands, and indeed the one which Christ Himself declared, is "Let us see the tree, that we may judge the fruit." We need to send into the field to work men who will prove Christ by their lives of purity, for wherever their walk in life may lead them, religion triumphs.

We are all arguments for or against the Church. Men say of every Catholic, let us examine his life, let us look at his record. If he is pure and reverent towards God and a man of prayer and sacrifice, they will say "There is a good man, and the source of his goodness we will seek out." Therefore the faithful Christian life of the Catholic layman is the best preaching of our divine Saviour's doctrine. Let man subdue his passions and show by his victory over pride and concupiscence the happy condition of a true Christian soldier. Humanity is looking around for something outside of itself. It is groping for something beyond and above this material world, where each seeks his own satisfactions with his duties towards others undone, where the powerful crush the weak, and the weak antagonize the powerful, and there is no peace amongst men.

The Church has in her hands the truths and precepts to save society. She would send them out amongst men in the hands of Catholic laymen who are true citizens of the State and despise lawlessness. Never before has the Catholic layman had greater opportunities than to-day. If each would do his duty towards God, the nation would fall down in reverence to the Church. If Catholic laymen were true soldiers of the Church, the twentieth century would indeed be Christ's own century.

I would not have the soldier of the Church to be loud and ostentatious in his work. No, the soldier of Christ should be calm and dignified, for he knows whose soldier he is—the soldier of Him who never crushed the bruised reed or extinguished the smoking flax. I have no place in the ranks of Christ for the braggadocio soldier of the cross who is always striking and suspecting, where he should have prudence and sympathy. I would have prudence in strength and strength in prudence. In social and business relations and affairs the soldier of Christ should work for His cause in tones of eloquence and elegance, if he can, but always with charity. The Church wants intelligent and working Catholics, not sluggards who are willing to be pushed into heaven on a bed of roses. Let such men go back to the rear; 'tis bad for themselves, but better for the Church. In the middle ages each country was Catholic and there was little to be done for the Church, but to-day is the day of battle. Yes, to-day, the Church is in the arena where she lasts as long as she shows her divine light.—*Providence Visitor.*

THE FRANCISCAN RETREAT.

A GRAND EVENT FOR THE ENGLISH SPEAKING CATHOLICS.

We announce with extreme pleasure the fact that on Sunday afternoon, next, at 2.45 o'clock, a Retreat will be commenced in the new Church of Our Lady of Angels, No. 1222 Dorchester street, for the members—men and women—of the Third Order of St. Francis. The Retreat will be preached by the Very Rev. Father Arsenius, Superior General of the Franciscan Order. The sermons will be in English, and the members of the Third Order, as well as their lady and gentlemen friends, are invited to attend. Did you ever follow a Retreat preached and conducted by Franciscans? If not, you must not fail to attend this time. There is something so simple, so holy, so heavenly, about the humble, emaciated and devoted members of that Order, that it seems as if their fervent eloquence, devoid of ornament but stamped with deep sincerity, went to the very heart, awoken new sentiments, imparted fresh ideas, raised the soul heavenward, and taught most emphatically the truth of that solemn expression of A Kempis—"Vanity of vanity, all is vanity, except to love God and Him alone to serve." We trust that every English-speaking Catholic who can possibly go will not miss this spiritual treat and retreat.

C. M. B. A.

A NUMBER OF STRONG RESOLUTIONS.

The following appeared in yesterday's Gazette:—

THAT "C. M. B. A. EVENT."

The following resolution was unanimously carried at a large and enthusiastic meeting of Branch No. 1, of Quebec council of the C.M.B.A., held in their hall last evening:—

"That a committee be appointed to contradict the statements relating to the item which appeared in the Gazette of the 23rd inst. headed "Event in the C.M.B.A., a large number of the members of branch No. 1, of the Grand Council of Quebec, gone over to the Grand Council of Canada," the above being untruthful and misleading, inasmuch as the members who have left No. 1 were five or seven only and the greater part of the e were suspended members for non-payment of dues and assessments.

"That the new council has made no headway is also basely untruthful, inasmuch as Branch No. 1 of said council has enrolled the largest number of members of any branch of either council in Montreal during the last year, and its membership is now the largest in the city. There is not the slightest evidence of discontent permeating the members of No. 1, the president of the new branch being the only one we have had amongst us since the secession of 1892, who thought he should have been presented with a gold watch for imaginary zeal in advancing the association. It was not the extra assessments that induced the five members to leave, but rather disappointed ambition on the part of the same."

JUBILEE OF THE SACRED HEART.

GRAND PROCESSION—BRILLIANT SERMON.

The grand procession and service in St. James Cathedral on Sunday, to celebrate the golden jubilee of the Sacred Heart League, was attended by over 4000 persons. Nine parishes took part in the procession, which left the Gesu church about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The members of St. Patrick's League were drawn up on St. Alexander street, under the direction of the clergy and Mr. Molloy. About 4 o'clock the last of the procession reached the cathedral, and the service began. After some special hymns in English had been sung, the Rev. Father Devlin, director of the Jesuits, ascended the pulpit and delivered a magnificent sermon on the Sacred Heart. The Rev. speaker, in the course of his remarks, traced the history of the devotion to its beginning, and gave an outline of the wonderful apparitions with which the Blessed Margaret Mary was favored; he then went on to speak of the rapid growth of the devotion; how it had spread to every land in the world, until at the present day there were over 20 millions of members of the League of the Sacred Heart. He then spoke of the great efficacy the united prayers of 20 millions of people must have with Our Blessed Lord. The

promoters were then invested with their crosses. The music of the occasion was splendidly rendered. St. Anthony's choir, which took the principal parts, did excellently, the hymns were sung with singular sweetness, but in the parts where the music of the organ was required there was a slight deficiency, as the small harmonium which was used was not powerful enough to send its music through the whole church.

After the assembly had received Benediction they returned to their various starting places and dispersed.

The celebration was a great success, and with the beautiful weather to encourage them, a much greater number attended than had been expected. The children of the Gesu parish looked especially well with their pretty banners.

WHERE TO GO ON DOMINION DAY

CATHOLIC EXCURSIONS.

The C. M. B. A. will hold their annual excursion to Lake St. Peter on Dominion Day (July 2nd). The steamer Three Rivers will convey the excursionists and a splendid Italian band has been engaged to provide music for the occasion. The steamer will leave the wharf at 1 p.m. sharp, and will return by moonlight.

St. Ann's T. A. and B. Society will make an excursion to Lake St. Peter on the steamer Rocket. Very many tickets have been sold and every effort has been made to make the excursion an enjoyable one. One of the features of the excursion will be the beautiful scenery which will be seen on the journey. The steamer leaves the wharf at 9 a.m., and on the return journey a splendid opportunity for viewing the beautiful scenery by moonlight will be enjoyed.

St. Ann's Young Men's Society will have their annual picnic to Sherringham Park on Dominion Day. Every effort has been made by the young men to make the excursion an enjoyable one, and a great number of tickets have already been sold.

The C. O. F. will have an excursion to Otterburn Park on Dominion Day. A special train leaves Bonaventure depot at 9 a.m. and at 1.30 p.m.

The Shamrock lacrosse club will go to Cornwall by a special train, leaving Bonaventure depot at 9.30, and leaving Cornwall for the return journey at 7.30 p.m.

ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN'S READING CIRCLE.

The usual fortnightly meeting of St. Ann's Young Men's Reading Circle was not held on Monday night, but was postponed until Wednesday, July 4th. It is probable that the Reading Circle will not meet again until the first week in September. Considerable progress has been made by the members of this Circle up to the present, but it is expected that after the vacation the members will take up their various studies with renewed vigor.

THE CARMELITE BAZAAR.

The drawing for the different prizes at this Bazaar took place on Thursday, the 21st June, inst., at the Carmelite Monastery. The following are the winning numbers:—88748, a gold watch, valued at \$40; 47856, a gold chain, valued at \$20; 91996, a gold bracelet, valued at \$20; 36026, a silver watch, valued at \$10; 029590, a sewing machine, valued at \$25; 83480, a gold ring, valued at \$20; 031082, a furnace, valued at \$5; 36751, a facsimile of a monument, valued at \$2; 47130, a picture, valued at \$1; 32420, a picture of N. D. de Lourdes, valued at \$1

A NEW STATUE FOR ST. JAMES' CATHEDRAL.

A generous Irish gentleman, whose name has not transpired, has presented St. James Cathedral with a magnificent life-size statue of our Blessed Lady and Infant Jesus. The statue, a very valuable one and most artistically modeled and tinted, now adorns the Altar of Our Lady, which is immediately at the back of the High Altar. In addition, the generous donor of the statue has presented the Church with a costly wrought silver Sanctuary lamp, embellished with exquisite floral designs. Whoever the donor of these articles may be, it is patent that he is a gentleman not only of generous temperament but with a perception of the beautiful which has enabled him to select for his gifts objects not only valuable but very beautiful.

SPECIAL SERVICE AT ST. ANTHONY'S.

On Sunday next a grand musical Mass will be sung in St. Anthony's Church, to celebrate the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul. The choir will be specially augmented for the occasion. The Mass chosen is the beautiful composition, La Hach's St. Therese. Miss Donovan will preside at the organ and Mr. Casey will act as musical director. A special sermon will be preached on the life and works of the two great saints, Peter and Paul.

MONTREAL VS. SHAMROCK.

The victorious Shamrocks are now seeking new fields for other triumphs. Next Saturday they will encounter the Montrealers, in the second contest for the Merchants' trophy. At a meeting yesterday morning the following officials were decided upon for the match: Referee, T. McAnulty; umpires, E. Sheppard and W. J. McKenna.

HON. MRS. MURPHY IS AGAIN ELECTED PRESIDENT.

At a meeting held last week, the ladies of St. Patrick's Charity Society unanimously re-elected Mrs. Murphy to the position of president. The society has done incalculable good among the poor of the parish, and the fact of Mrs. Murphy's continued re-election to the presidency shows that her co-workers appreciate the great interest she takes in the splendid work of the society.

A. O. H.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers of the A. O. H. will take place, in the hall of number 2 division, at Point St. Charles, to-night at 8 p.m. General topics will be discussed, and some interesting subjects are expected to come up before the board.

THE FEAST OF REV. FATHER GEOFFRION.

Last week the feast of the Rev. Father Geoffrion, the superior of Notre Dame College at Cote des Neiges, was celebrated.

The pupils and professors presented him with a beautiful bouquet of flowers as a token of their esteem and love. In the morning the Rev. Father Geoffrion sang Mass in the college chapel, after which the brothers and their visiting friends adjourned to the refectory, where dinner was partaken of. In the afternoon the pupils presented a little play very cleverly and gave much pleasure to the director and visitors. The boys who did especially well were F. Steel, Payette, Goyer, W. Feeney, A. Blanchard, Leo Ortoz. Fr. Geoffrion has been a member of the Community of the Holy Cross for 31 years, he was for 15 years superior at St. Lawrence College, and has been five years in Notre Dame College of Cote des Neiges.

BLESSING THE BELL.

The blessing of the bell at the new church of the Franciscans on Dorchester street took place on Sunday. The ceremony was a very interesting and solemn one. Archbishop Fabre officiated, and placing his hands on the bell he blessed it; it was then washed with holy water and afterwards carefully dried. The bell, which is a splendid toned one, weighs 500 pounds. After the blessing the Archbishop gave solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The sacred edifice was crowded. Rev. Father Baillarge, late of Joliette and now parish priest of Rawdon, delivered an appropriate sermon, in which he dwelt on the uses and history of bells in the Catholic Church.

FATHER O'MEARA HONORED.

The Feast of St. William, which took place on Monday, was made an occasion by the parishioners of St. Gabriel's of special interest, for it was also the feast day of their beloved pastor, the Rev. Wm. O'Meara. The parishioners testified their esteem for their genial pastor by presenting him with many valuable presents and congratulations. In the afternoon the Rev. Father was received by the young ladies of St. John's Convent and was the recipient of an address and a very beautiful bouquet of flowers.